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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/061,641	01/31/2002	Steven Teig	SPLX.P0079	1836
48947	7590	09/26/2006	EXAMINER	
STATTLER, JOHANSEN, AND ADELI LLP 1875 CENTURY PARK EAST SUITE 1360 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067			DO, THUAN V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2825	

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/061,641
Filing Date: January 31, 2002
Appellant(s): TEIG ET AL.

Sean Thavonekham
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 07/28/2006 appealing from the Office action mailed 02/23/2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,117,277

Yuyama et al.

5-1992

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Yuyama et al., Pat. No. 5117277.

Regarding claim 1: Yuyama teaches a layout comprising:

a) a net with routable elements (abstract with 1st. and 2nd. wirings);

b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the net, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons (abstract with the plurality of first and second wirings have at their ends connection portions of a regular hexagonal shape or a circular shape for a partial non-quadrilateral polygons. In addition, Figure 1 standing for the net with connecting lines such the bars of numbers 21 and 22. Each bar no. 21 or 22 has the end shape of 5 edges of an hexagon shape, examiner considers the 5 edges as the partial of hexagon shape because the 6th edge is never exist since the interconnect line and end portion forms one solid bar. The interconnect line 21 is defined by one solid bar from the 2 edges of the interconnect lines prolonging to the 5 edges of an hexagon shape continuously).

Regarding claim 2: Yuyama teaches a layout with partial polygon (col. 12, lines 44-47, figure 1 with the end shape of the solid bar no. 21 or 22 and col. 8, lines 62-66).

Regarding claim 3: Yuyama teaches a layout with hexagon equal side (hexagon equal edges of the solid bar no. 21 or 22 in Figure 1).

Regarding claims 4-7,9: Yuyama teaches a layout with different shapes (col. 12, lines 44-47 and col. 8, lines 62-66 where the different angle shapes standing for different ending shapes such as hexagon angle is 60 central degree, octagon angle is 45 central degree. These areas are also used to match the different shapes of claims 10-14, 16 and 17).

Regarding claims 8,15,18: Yuyama teaches a layout with vias (col. 1, lines 44-54 and figure 1 with the center vias of P25, P35 positions).

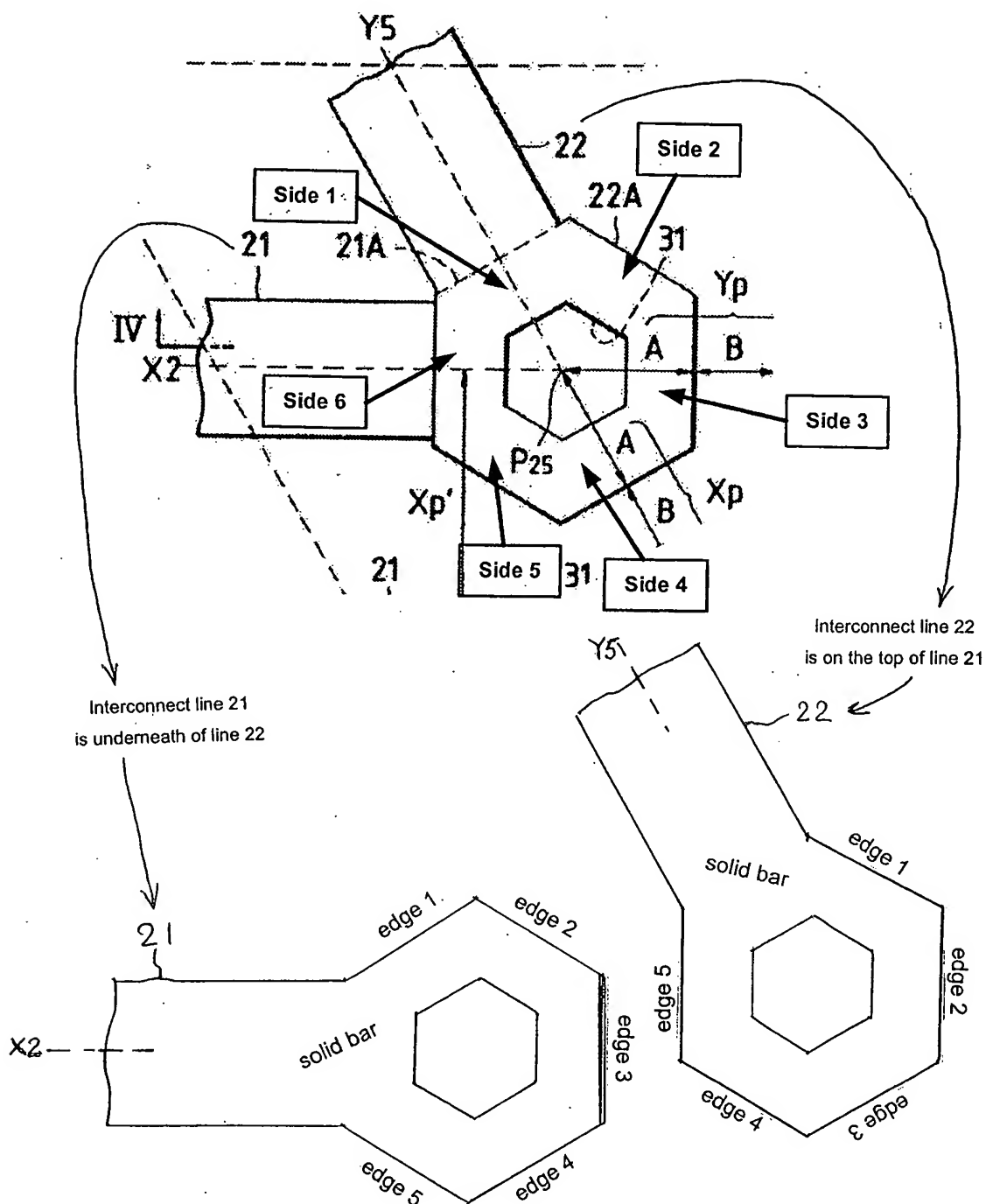
(10) Response to Argument

Applicant said that Yuyama does not teach the interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons.

Yuyama teaches Figure 1 standing for the net with connecting lines such the bars of numbers 21 and 22. Each bar no. 21 or 22 has the end shape of 5 edges of an hexagon shape, examiner considers the 5 edges as the partial of hexagon shape because the 6th edge is never exist since the interconnect line and end portion forms one solid bar. The interconnect line 21 is defined by one solid bar from the 2 edges of the interconnect lines prolonging to the ending portion of 5 edges of an hexagon shape

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continuously (please see the following drawings of interconnect lines no. 21 and 22 with 5 edges on the solid connection bar 21 or 22).



Applicant said in the Exhibit A that connection portions 21A and 22A (figure 1) with complete hexagonal shapes.

For more accuracy, Yuyama teaches the connection plane which has a complete hexagonal shape for the connection on the ending sides of 2 solid interconnect bars no. 21 and 22 (col. 8, lines 36-39). This feature deals with the siding surface area of a complete hexagonal shape that is not represented in claim 1. Claim 1 claims only "the interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons", this line ending feature only deals with the ending shape of connection line as matched by Yuyama in the above section as the interconnect line 21 is defined by one solid bar from the 2 edges of the interconnect lines prolonging to the ending portion of 5 edges of an hexagon shape continuously.

The complete hexagonal shape for the connection on the ending sides of 2 solid interconnect bars no. 21 and 22 in figure 1 of Yuyama is very similar to figure 69 of the application with the complete hexagonal shape connection surface or plane.

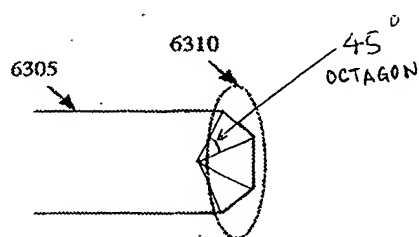
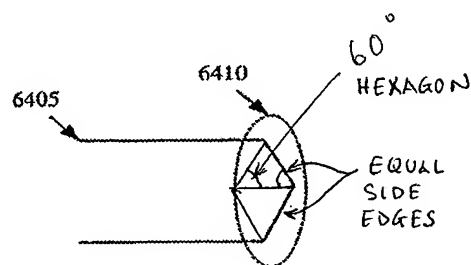
Applicant said in the Exhibit B about the term of "portion" is different from "partial".

Examiner considers the 5 edges as the "partial" of hexagon shape because the complete hexagonal shape would be 6 edges.

Applicant said that Yuyama does not teach different shapes such as octagon, half octagon, equal sides.

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Yuyama teaches the different angle for manipulation of shapes standing for different ending shapes such as hexagon angle is 60 central degree, octagon angle is 45 central degree or 90 central degree for equal side edges (please see the following drawings of figures 63 and 64):

**Figure 63****Figure 64**

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Thuan Do 

Primary examiner

09/18/2006

Conferees:


JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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